



**Testimony for the House
Natural Resources Committee
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Chairman and members of the Committee thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony for Senate Bills 850, 51 & 52. My name is Melissa Trustman. I am a Director of Government Relations with the Detroit Regional Chamber, an organization representing over 22,000 members in Southeast Michigan.

Our membership and partner base represent a wide variety of businesses, industries & water users – all of whom could be affected directly or indirectly by any regulatory structure. We are here today to support the bill package before you.

As an area that represents about half of the states' industry and residents, our region uses a significant amount of water for a variety of reasons. As inventory measurements have shown, there is an abundant amount of water in this state. However, there are a number of areas where a closer look at the inventory is needed and these bills provide that ability. In addition to the conflict resolution mechanism, the assessment tools provided in SB 851 will help provide an important instrument to prevent damage to our water resources.

Contained within SB 850, there are several important steps to better management of water in our state. First is the establishment of an indicator of resource health through trout stream monitoring. This will direct attention to an important part of our ecosystem and consider the dynamic nature of our resources. Second, is the monitoring and permitting of increased uses to ensure our growth is not harmful to our waters and its respective ecosystem.

We place great value on regard to the water as a resource and not prioritizing for various uses. It is important to respect and protect our state's most valuable resource and the range uses for it. In addition to the value to human life, its value supports plants, animals, our economy and a unique and special geological distinction unlike non other in the world. By recognizing our waters as an integral part of the entire ecosystem in section 32702 part 1-I (page 8), the recognition of water as a function of sustainable development protects that important distinction and our historical legal structure.

We strongly encourage support and passage of the package before you. Thank you for your time today.